



February 14, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL AS AMENDED (004040): Exempts a patient who is receiving an initial behavioral health evaluation or assessment from the requirement of an in-person encounter between the patient and a healthcare service provider, the healthcare service provider's practice group, or the healthcare system within 16 months prior to a telehealth visit. Authorizes a physician assistant authorized to prescribe drugs who provides services solely via telehealth to arrange for the required personal review of the physician assistant's charts by a collaborating physician, or the required visit by a collaborating physician to any remote site, or both, via HIPAA-compliant electronic means rather than at the site of the clinic.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL AS AMENDED:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- The proposed legislation will not have a significant impact on the policies or procedures of the Department of Health or health-related boards.
- TennCare covers in-person behavioral health services at the same rate as telehealth behavioral health services; therefore, no impact to TennCare expenditures.
- According to the Division of Benefits Administration, the state group insurance plans do not require an in-person assessment 16 months prior to use of telehealth behavioral health services; therefore, no impact to the state employee, local education, or local government insurance plans.

IMPACT TO COMMERCE OF BILL AS AMENDED:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumption:

- Any impact to commerce or jobs in Tennessee is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/ch